

A True and Faithful
ACCOUNT
OF THE SEVERAL
INFORMATIONS
EXHIBITED

To the Honourable Committee appointed
by the

PARLIAMENT

To Inquire into the Late Dreadful Burning
Of the

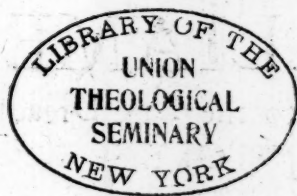
City of London.

TOGETHER

With other INFORMATIONS touching
the Insolency of POPISH PRIESTS and
JESUITES; and the INCREASE of
POPERY, brought to the Honourable
Committee appointed by the Parliament
for that purpose.

Printed in the Year 1667.

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LONDONS Consumption by FIRE.

UPon the second of September 1666. the Fire began in *London*, at one *Farryners House*, a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, between the hours of one and two in the Morning, and continued burning until the sixth of September following; consuming, as by the Surveyors appears in Print, three hundred seventy three Acres within the Walls of the City of *London*, and sixty three Acres three Roods without the Walls. There remains seventy five Acres three Roods yet standing within the Walls unburnt. Eighty nine Parish Churches, besides Chappels burnt. Eleven Parishes within the Walls yet standing. Houses burnt, thirteen thousand two hundred.

Per *Jonas Moore*, } Surveyors.
Ralph Gerris. }

Upon the eighteenth of September 1666, the Parliament came together. And upon the 25th of the same month, the House of Commons appointed a Committee to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire, before whom the following Informations were given in; and proved before the Committee; as by their Report will more clearly appear, bearing date the two and twentieth of January 66. and upon the eighth of February following, the Parliament was Prorogued, before they came to give their Judgement thereupon.

Die Martis 23 Septembris 1666. 18 Car. 2.

Resolved, &c.

THat a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire, and that it be referred to.

Sir Charles Harbord	Mr. Rob. Milward.	Sir Robert Atkins.
Mr. Sandys.	Sir William Lowther.	Sir Thomas Gower.
Col. Birch.	Sir Richard Vartley.	Mr. Trevor.
Sir Robert Brook,	Sir Rowland Beckley.	Sir Thomas Clifford.
Sir Tho. Littleton.	Sir Tho. Allen.	Sir Hen. Casan.
Mr. Prin	Mr. Whorwood.	Sir John Monson.
Mr. Jones.	Mr. Coventry.	Sir John Charlton.
Sir Solom. Swale	Serj. Maynard.	Lord Auncram.
Sir Tho. Tomlins.	Sir Jo. Talbot.	Mr. Pépis.
Mr. Seymour.	Mr. Morley.	Sir Richard Everard.
Mr. Finch.	Mr. Garramay.	Mr. Crouch.
Lord Herbert.	Sir Fran. Goodrick.	Mr. Mersel.
Sir John Heath.	Col. Strangways.	Sir Will. Hickman.
Mr. Milward.	Sir Edward Massey.	Sir Richard Brown.
Sir Richard Ford.	Sir Edm. Walpole.	Mr. Maynard.

And they are to meet to morrow at two of the Clock in the afternoon, in the Speakers Chamber: and to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Will. Goldsbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

October 9. 1666.

Ordered, That these Members following be added to the Committee appointed to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire, viz. Sir John Pelham, Mr. Hugh Buscoven, Mr. Giles Brungerford, Sir William Lewis, Sir Gilbert Gerrard, Sir John Brompstone and Mr. Maynard, Mr. Buscoven; and all the Members that serve for the City of London.

Will. Goldsbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

October

October 16. 1666.

Ordered, That Mr. Davies, Sir Thomas Higgons, Mr. St. John, Sir Richard Franklin, Sir Thomas Tomkins, Mr. Dovereux, Mr. Mil-lard, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dowdwell, Sir James Thyn, Sir Edm. Pierse, Mr. Coleman, Sir Tho. Allen, Mr. Giles Hangerford, Mr. Churchill, be added to the Committee appointed to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire.

Will. Goldesbrough, Clex. Dom. Com.

THe Honourable Committee, according to the fore-mentioned Orders of the House, did meet in the Speakers Chamber, and having chosen Sir Robert Brook for their Chairman, proceeded to receive many considerable Informations from divers credible Persons, about the matter wherewith they were intrusted, and there-upon did at last agree that Sir Robert Brook should make the ensuing Report to the Honourable House of Commons.

The Report of Sir Robert Brook, Chair-man to the Committee that was appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into the Burning of the City of London made the Two and Twentieth of January, 1666.

IN a Letter from *Monsieur de la Roche* the 3^d of August, 1666, *Non Silem* written from one *Durand* a Gentleman lodging in the House of one of the Masters of the French Church in London, called *Monsieur Herault* these were their expressions: *Il y a eu un grand incendie qui a duré quatre jours, lequel a consumé la ville de Londres, et a fait mourir beaucoup de monde. Le feu a commencé dans une maison qui se nomme *la Tour de St. Martin*, et s'est étendue par tout le quartier de *St. Martin*, et a consumé la ville de Londres, et a fait mourir beaucoup de monde. Le feu a commencé dans une maison qui se nomme *la Tour de St. Martin*, et s'est étendue par tout le quartier de *St. Martin*, et a consumé la ville de Londres, et a fait mourir beaucoup de monde.*

Mrs Elizabeth Styles informs, That in April last, in an eager discourse she had with a French Servant of Sir Kere Fan, he hastily replied, *You English Maids will like the Frenchmen better, when there is not a House left between Temple-Bar and London-Bridge.* To which she answered, I hope your eyes will never see that. He replied, *This will come to pass between June and October.*

William Tisdale informs, That he being about the beginning of July at the Greyhound in St. Martins, with one Fitz-Harris an Irish Papist, heard him say, *There would be a sad Desolation in September, in November a worse, in December all would be united into one.* Whereupon he asked him, Where this Desolation would be? He answered, *In London.*

Mr. Light of Ratcliff, having some discourse with Mr. Longborn of the Middle-Temple, Barrister, (reputed a zealous Papist) about February 65 last, after some discourse in disputation about Religion, he took him by the hand, and said to him, *You expect great things in Sixty Six, and think that Rome will be destroyed, but what if it be London?*

Mr. Kitley of Barkin in Essex, informs, That one Mrs. Tazly, a Papist, of Ifford in the said County, came unto his House, August the 13th, and being in discourse with his Mother, said, *They say the next Thursday will be the hottest day that ever was in England.* She replied, I hope the hottest season of the year is now past. To which she answered, *I know not whether it be the hottest for Weather or for Action.* This Mrs. Tazly coming to the same House the Week after the Fire, Mr. Kitley said to her with some trouble, I have often thought of your Hot Thursday: To which she replied, *It was not indeed upon the Thursday, but it happened upon the Sunday was sennight after.* Mrs. Tazly hearing this Evidence produced against her, endeavoured to avoid the words, saying, *That upon the 13th of August she did tell Mrs. Kitley, That they say the next Thursday will be the darkest Thursday that ever was in England, but not otherwise;* which she affirms to have received from one Frichman, an old Woman of Ifford; who being examined by a Justice of Peace to discover the truth thereof, denied that ever she said any such words to Mrs. Tazly, or that she had discoursed with her about any such matter. And as to the subsequent words, she said Mrs. Tazly denies ever to have spoken them: But Mr. Justice offered in her presence (if it should be demanded) to bring his Mother and Wife to testify the same.

William Duckett Esq; a Member of the House, informs, That one *Henry Baker* of *Chippenham* in the County of *Wiltz*, coming from Market with one *John Woodman* of *Kelloway* in the same County, the Thursday before the Fire began in *London*, they had some discourse about the buying of a yoke of fat *Bullocks*, wherein they differed, because *Woodman* who was to sell them was desired to keep them a while in his hands; But the said *Woodman* denied so to do, for that as he alleadged, he could not stay in the Country till that time which *Baker* would have them delivered to him in, and being asked whither he was going, he refused to tell, Asking what he had to do to make that question; But riding a little further, the said *Woodman* exprest these words, *You are brave Blades at Chippenham, you made Bonfires lately for beating the Dutch; But since you delight in Bonfires, you shall have your Bellies full of them ere it be long:* Adding, that if he lived one week longer, he should see *London* as sad a *London* as ever it was since the World began. And in some short time after, he should see as bloody a time as ever was, since *England* was *England*. This discourse was not much taken notice of at that time it was spoken. But when the City of *London* was Burnt, the said *Henry Baker* gave this Information to the said *Mr. Duckett*, and whereupon he issued out his Warrant to apprehend *Woodman*, but he was gone out of the Country, and cannot be heard of since.

Robert Hubert of *Roan* in *Normandy*, who acknowledged that he was one of those that Fired the House of *Mr. Farriner* a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, from whence the Fire had its beginning, confessed, that he came out of *France* with one *Stephen Piedloe* about four months before the Fire, and went into *Sweden* with him, where he also staid with him as his Companion four months, and then they came together into *England* in a *Swedish* Ship called the *Skipper*, where he staid on board with the said *Piedloe* till that Saturday night, in which the Fire brake out. When *Piedloe* taking him out of the Ship, carried him into *Pudding-Lane*, and he being earnest to know whither he would carry him? he would not satisfie him till he had brought him to the place, and then he told him, that he had brought three Balls, and gave him one of them to throw into the house. And he would have been further satisfied in the design, as he said, before he would execute it: But *Piedloe* was

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so impatient that he would not hear him, and then he did the *Fact*, which was, That he put a Fire-Ball at the end of a long Pole, and lighting it with a piece of Match, he put it in at a Window, and staid till he saw the House in a flame. He confessed that there were *Three and Twenty Complices*, whereof *Peidloe* was the Chief.

Mr. Graves a French Merchant living in *St. Mary Axe*, informed this Committee, that he had known *Hubert* ever since he was four years old, and hath ever observed him to be a person of a malicious inclination, and therefore fit for any villanous enterprize; And because of his knowledge he had of him, he went to visit him in Prison, where when he saw him, he could not but commiserate the condition whereinto he had brought himself. And for his better discovery of the *Fact*, he told him the said *Hubert*, that he did not believe he had done that of which he confessed himself guilty. To which *Hubert* replied, *Tes Sir, I am guilty of it; and have been brought to it by the instigation of Monsieur Peidloe; but not out of any malice to the English Nation, but from a desire of Reward which he promised me upon my Return into France.*

It is observable, that this miserable creature who confessed himself to the Committee to be a Protestant, was a Papist, and dyed so. And as for the aforesaid *Peidloe*, the said *Mr. Graves* informed, that he had had a full knowledge of him, and knew him to be a very Debauch Person, and apt to any Wicked Design. Moreover, for a clear conviction of the Guilt of the aforesaid *Hubert*, *Mr. Lowman*, the Keeper of the *White-Lion* Prison, was appointed to set him upon a horse, and to go with him, and see if he could find out the place where he threw the Fire-Ball. Upon which, *Hubert* with more readiness than those that were well acquainted with the place, went to *Pudding-lane*, unto the very place where the house that was first fired stood, saying, *here stood the house*. The Jaylor endeavoured to draw him from that belief, and put him upon seeking for some other place: But he positively persisted in what he had first said; and affirmed that to have been the said House. It being intimated to the Committee, That notwithstanding the Confession of the said *Hubert*, it was confidently reported the Fire in the forementioned *Farryners* house began by accident. The Committee therefore sent for him the said *Farryner* before them, who being examined, said, That it was impossible any Fire should happen in his House by accident; for he had after Twelve of the Clock that night gone through

every

every Room thereof, and found no Fire, but in one Chimney, where the Room was paved with Bricks, which Fire he diligently raked up in Embers. He was then asked, whether no Window or Door might let in wind to disturb those Coals? He affirmed there was no possibility for any wind to disturb them: and that it was absolutely set on fire of purpose.

Dawes Wejmanfel Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, informed, That he saw a man apprehended in the time of the Fire, near the Temple, with his Pockets stuf with *combustible matter*, made of Flax, Tow, and such-like materials.

Doctor John Packer informs, That he saw a Person in the time of the Fire, throw some *combustible matter* into a Shop in the Old Bayley, which he thinks was the Shop of an Apothecary; and that immediately thereupon he saw a great smোক, and smelt a *smell of Brimstone*. The Person that did this, immediately ran away; but upon the out-cry of the People he was taken by the Guards.

Mr. Randal, Mr. Haslem, and Mr. Humphry Bowyer, do all agree, That they saw a person flinging something into a House near St. Antholines Church; and that thereupon the House was on fire, and the smোক thereof infested the adjacent Houses. And when this was done, there was *No fire near the place*.

Mr. Michael March, an Officer in the Trained Bands in a Company of Sir Richard Browns, apprehended a *Walloon* in the time of the Fire, at the Nags-Head in *Leaden-hall-Street*, with an Instrument like a dark Lanthorn, made (as is conceived) to lay a Train of Powder, and it was filled with Gun-powder. There were two more of the same Nation in his company. They being asked to what use they employed the same Instrument, would give no Account thereof.

Newton Killingworth Esq; informed, That he apprehended a person during the fire, about whom he found much *combustible matter*, and certain *black things*, of a *long figure*, which he could not indure to hold in his hand, by reason of their extream heat. This Person was so surprized at first, that he would not answer to any question; But being on his way to *White-hall*, he acted the part of a Mad-man, and so continued while he was with him.

Sir John Maynard, a Member of this House, affirms, That he had some of that *combustible matter* in his hands; and though it were in its natural substance, and unfired, yet the heat of it was scarcely to be endured by the touch.

Mr. Freeman of Southwark Brewer, (whose House was lately fired) informs, That on the day his House was fired (about a quarter of an hour before that happened) a Paper with a Ball of Wildfire, containing near a pound weight wrapped in it, was found in the Nave of a Wheel, in a Wheelers-yard, where lay a great quantity of Timber. How his House was fired he knoweth not; but this he affirmed to the Committee, That it could not be by accident, because there had not been any Candle or Fire in the House where the Hay lay, that whole day; and that the Hay being laid in very dry, and before Midsummer, could not possibly be set on fire within it self. Moreover he said, That the Hay-loft was on fire on the top of the House, and that the Fire spread from the one end of the Roof to another in an instant.

Mr. Richard Harwood informs, That being near the Feathers Tavern by St. Pauls, upon the fourth of September, he saw something through a Grate in a Celler, like Wild-fire, by the sparkling and spitting of it he could judge it to be no other; Whereupon he gave notice of it to some Souldiers that were near the place, who caused it to be quenched.

I had order from the Committee to acquaint you, That we traced several Persons apprehended upon strong suspicion (during the Fire) to the Guards, but could not make further discovery of them.

Thus far was the Report: What follows was given in to the Committee, but not by them Reported to the House at that time..

INobedience to an Order directed to me, from the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons, then sitting in the Speakers Chamber, of the second of October, 1666. I did carry Robert Hubert to St. Katherines Tower by Water, to let me know the place where the Swedish Ship lay, that brought him and other Frenchmen from Stockholm, and he brought me to the Dock over-against Mr. Corfellis his Brew-house, and did then verifie to me, and Mr. Corfellis, That the Ship lay there, until such time as he with Mr. Peidloe and others did go and set fire to a House. And this Hubert did then further say, That Mr. Peidloe did fix two Fire-Balls to a long Pole, and put them into a Window; and that he the said Robert Hubert did fire one in the same manner, and put it in at the same Window. But with all the inquiry and dilligence that I could use, I could neither find nor hear of any such Vessel. And from thence I carried the said Robert Hubert to Tower-Hill.

Hill, and did then desire him to shew me the House that they did fire, and he said, That it was near the Bridge. So we went along Thames-street towards the Bridge; but before we came to the Bridge, the said Robert Hubert said, That the House was up there (pointing with his hand up Pudding-lane :) So I bid him go to the place, and he went along the Bricks and Rubbish, and made a stand. Then did I ask one Robert Penny, a Wine-Porter, which was the Bakers House? and he told me, That was the House where the aforesaid Robert Hubert stood. So I went to Robert Hubert and stood by him, and turned my back towards the Bakers House, and demanded of him, which House it was that he fired, (directing to other Houses contrary to that House.) But he turning himself about said, This was the House (pointing to the Bakers House) that was first fired. Then by reason of his lameness I set him on a Horse, and carried him to several other places, but no other place he would acknowledge; but rode back again to the Bakers House, and said again, That that was the House (pointing at the Bakers House) And this I do humbly certify to this Honourable Committee.

By me John Lowman, Keeper of his Majesties County-Goal for Surry.

SIR,

Hearing that you are Chairman to the Committee for examining the Firing of London, I thought good to acquaint you with this Information that I have received,

William Champneys, a Hatband-maker, now living upon Horshy-Down, was upon Tuesday-morning, September the fourth 1666. in Shoe-Lane, and there met with a Constable who had apprehended a Frenchman whom he took firing a House there with Fire-balls, and charged the said Champneys to assist him, who carried the said Frenchman to Salisbury Court, hoping there to have found a Justice; but finding that Place burning down, returned into Fleet-street, who was presently called upon by the Commander of the Life-Guard, to know what the matter was: The Constable told him, he had apprehended a Frenchman firing a House in Shoe-Lane; he examined the person and committed him to the Guard, and told the Constable he would secure him, and carried him along with him. The Constable asked him whether he should go along with him to give in his Evidence: He replied, That he had done enough, and might go home. But what became of the Frenchman he knoweth not.

Your humble Servant, S. G.

In a Letter from Ipswich, directed, *For the Honourable Sir Robert Brook*, it is intimated, That about the 30th of August 1666, one of the Constables of Cotton in Hartsmer Hundred, being about the survey of that Town about *Hearth-money*, was told by one Mr. *William Thompson*, a Roman Catholic in that Town, That though times were like to be sad, yet if he found any cause to change his Religion, he would see he should not want: And further said to him, *What will you say if you hear that London is Burnt?*

The Affidavits touching a Frenchman that said, There were Three hundred of them engaged in Firing the City.

The Informations of Richard Bound of St. Giles in the Fields, Iron-monger; William Cores, Samuel Page, Francis Cogny, Edmond Dakins, and Richard Pardoe, taken the 8th day of Septemb. 1666 by Sir Justinian Lewen, Knight, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, upon Oath, as followeth.

Richard Bound saith, That upon Tuesday night last about twelve or one of the clock there was a Frenchman brought by the Watch to this Informants Father's house, being at the sign of the *White-Hart* in King-street, taken as a suspicious person; The said person being questioned by them, Whether he was not one of those that Fired the City, or had a hand therein, or any privy or knowledge of any that had designed the same; or words to that effect: The said person answered a great while in a perverse manner, quite different from the question. But being further pressed to tell the truth; and being told, that if he were guilty, it would be the only way to save his Life: He did at first obstinately deny, that he knew any thing of any Plot. Whereupon a Young man took the Prisoner aside to the end of the Room, and after some private discourse between them, they both returned to this Informant and the rest of the Company, and the said Young man spake openly to us, in the hearing of the Prisoner, That the said Frenchman and Prisoner had confessed, *there were Three hundred Frenchmen that were in a Plot or Conspiracy to fire the City.* Upon which this Informant and others spake to the said Frenchman in these words, or to the same effect: *Well Monsieur, you have done very well to confess what you have done, and no doubt but you may have your Pardon, if you will confess.*

confess all you know of this Plot : And thereupon further asked him, Are there no more than three hundred persons in the said Plot ? He answered, There are no more than three hundred Persons. Then we inquired who they were, and how he came to know they were Three hundred ? To which he would give no direct Answer, but put it off with other extravagant discourse. And being asked why he came to St. Giles Parish (where he was apprehended ?) He told a story, that he came from Islington-Fields, where his Masters Goods were ; But the Goods were now removed, but he could not tell whither ; and that his Master bid him go up and down the Fields, but would not declare upon what occasion, or for what end he was so to do : And being asked whether there were three hundred persons engaged in this Design or Plot ? He replied, that there were Three hundred engaged in it.

The several Informations of William Cotes of Cow-Lane of London Painter ; of Samuel Page of St. Giles in the Fields Weaver, of Edmund Dakins of St. Giles aforesaid, Bookseller ; of Francis Cockney of St. Andrews Holborn ; of Richard Pardoe Victualler, taken upon Oath, &c. tend to the Confirmation of the foregoing Relation

An Extract of a Letter from Heydleburgh, in the Palatinate, September the 29th. 1666.

S I R,

Yours of the sixth current came on Wednesday to me, and brought the ill tidings of the Burning of London, constantly expected and discoursed of amongst the Jesuites to my knowledge for these five years last past, as to Happen this Year. In which they do also promise to themselves and others the Introduction of the publick exercise of the Catholick Religion. This Letter was sent to Mr. Alton, who lives in New-Gravel-Lane in Shadwel, who negotiates the business of the Palatinate, and will produce the Original if there be occasion.

The Information of John Chishul Schoolmaster in Enfield.

UPON Friday, Aug. 31. Mrs. St. George, and her eldest daughter Susanna St. George, both Popish Recusants, came to visit Mrs.

Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* Widow, at her house in *Enfield*, where speaking concerning the Session of Parliament drawing nigh, Mrs. *St. George* told her, *That some would hereafter be called to an account for a Plot.* Being asked for what? She told her in her ear, *For Burning the City.* Mrs. *Eves* afterwards hearing of the firing of *London*, (and going to a place where she might behold it) met with Mrs. *Susanna St. George*, and (amongst other discourse) told her how much her Mothers Words, which she spake the *Friday* before, did run in her thoughts; which she repeated to her Daughter, who made this Reply, *That her Mother was very apt to talk; and that she had been fain to keep her Mother within doors during the Fire, fearing lest she should talk.*

After this (during the Fire) Mrs. *Eves* met with Mrs. *Cook*, another Popish Recusant, and of the same Family, to whom she also related Mrs. *St. George* her words; who made this return, *That she was a worthy woman to keep Counsel.*

Also the Lady *St. George* at *Enfield* in the Lord of *Lincolns* house, declared to Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* of the said Town, *That within a few days the City of London would be laid in Ashes.* This was spoken about two days before the Fire happened.

Mrs. Eves of Enfield her Examination before Mr. Jolliff and Mr. Marvel, Decemb. 20. 1666. concerning Mrs. St. George.

Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* of *Enfield*, three or four days or within a week before the Fire, receiving a Visit in her own house from Mrs. *St. George* (amongst other discourses) Mrs. *St. George* askt her what News she heard? and, if she knew when the Parliament sat? Mrs. *Eves* replied, she thought shortly. The other asked, *If she heard of any that were to be called in question before the Parliament?* Mrs. *Eves* said, About what? Mrs. *St. George* said, *About a Plot.* Mrs. *Eves* asked, what Plot? Mrs. *St. George* answered, *About Firing the City.* Mrs. *Eves* said, *I hope God will preserve the City; but people use not to be questioned before the fact be committed.* So the discourse was waved for that time.

At the time of the Fire, Mrs. *Eves* went out to look towards the Fire, and mentioning Mrs. *St. George*; one in the Company replied behind her (but she cannot certainly fix the person) *A prime Woman to keep counsel!* After the Fire, Mrs. *St. George* her daughter came

came to *Mrs Eves*, who asked her if she remembered what her Mother had said? She said, *My Mother is such a Woman she will speak what she thinks.* Afterwards she said, That she had much ado to keep her Mother in at the time of the Fire, lest she should speak some things she should be questioned for.

At the first discourse *Mrs Eves*, her Daughter, and others of her Family were present. *Mr. St. George*, his Wife and Family have since left *Enfield*. They are all great *Papists*, and there are many more in the Neighbourhood.

A Letter directed and sent by the Post to Mr. Samuel Thurston in Leicestershire, from a person unknown, as followeth,
Dated October 16. 1666.

My Friend,

Your Presence is now more necessary at London, than where you are, that you may determine how to dispose of your Estate in Southwark; For it is determined by *Humane Counsel* (if not frustrated by *Divine Power*) that the Suburbs will shortly be destroyed. Your capacity is large enough to understand. Proceed as your *Genius* shall instruct you.

Cave, Cave. Fuge, Vale.

Saturday the first of September 1666, the day before the Fire in London, came one *Urmstraw* from Ireland, with a Letter from thence to one Esq; *Holcroft* at *East-Ham* in *Essex* (being related to that Family by Marriage) where he supped. After which he askt the Esquire, if he had heard any thing of the Firing of London? who answered, No. But *Urmstraw* said, he would shortly, For it was, or would be so that night. The Esquire answered, If it were, he hoped it might be quenched again, as it had been many a time. But *Urmstraw* answered, No, it would not be quenched; For it should be said of it, as of *Troy*, repeating a Latine Verse, *Nunc Seges est ubi Troja fuit*, That Now Corn grows where *Troy* stood. This discourse was managed pleasantly by him, after which, they went to their beds. And in the morning this *Urmstraw* inquires earnestly, Whether they had heard of the Firing of London that Night? They answered, No: But he prayed them to send one of the Family out to enquire, and doubtless they would hear of it; Upon which a messen-

ger was sent, who brought in Word from a man that travelled upon the Road, that it was on Fire indeed. After Dinner this *Urmstraw* desires his horse to be saddled, that he might be gone. The Etquire intreats him to stay till next morning; But he answered, *If I should stay, I should sleep no more this night than I did the last: Therefore I would go see London before it's quite burned, For I shall never see it more.*

Sunday morning the Fire being begun in London, a person coming from *Depford*, when he came to *Barnaby-street-end* in *Southwark*, hears a Woman cry out against a *Frenchman* for throwing *Fire-balls*, he runs after him, and lays hold of him. He asked him what Commission he had for so doing? He answered, that *his Commission was in his Chest*. The People coming in, they search'd him, and found *Fireballs* in his pockets. He was delivered to the Guard in *Southwark*, but heard of no more.

A Citizen being fired out of his House, had hired a Lodging in *Queens street* in *Covent-Garden*: and going up *Holborn* (there being a Crowd of people) steps in amongst them, and hears a Woman say, that she had a hand in Firing the City. The People askt her, whether she were an Anabaptist? She said No: Are you an Independent? She said No: Are you a Presbyterian? She said No: Are you a *Roman Catholick*? to which she would give no answer. The Citizen asked her, but Mistris had you a hand in Burning the City? She answered, what would you have me to say? *I have confessed it already, and do deserve to Dye for it*: this she said with great trembling, and seemed to be much troubled. The Citizen enquires for a Constable, the People reply, there was one gone for, But a Gallant comes, and takes her by the Arm, and leads her away, saying he would have her examined, and forthwith another Gallant closeth with him, and they both carryed her to the *Griffin Tavern* in *Holborn*. The Citizen follows them, to see the result of the business. But, they, with the Master of the House, shut out the Company (all but the Citizen, supposing him to be one of their own Company) but asking one the other concerning him, and finding him not of them, put him out again. Whereupon he goes to the next Company of Souldiers, and Inquires for their Captain, who replied, he was not there, but told him, Yonder is my Lord *Craven*, unto whom the Citizen repaired, and acquainted his Lordship, That there was a Woman apprehended (and rescued by a couple of Gallants) that had Confessed she had a hand in Burning the City, and was at such a Tavern.

Where-

Whereupon the Lord *Craven* called to a Captain in the street, and ordered him to go with that Man and apprehend the Woman that he should direct him to; Whereupon he goes with the Citizen, and takes her with the first Gallant, who stood up highly in her defence, and carries them both to an Alehouse on the other side of the way. The Citizen perceiving that nothing would be done with her, leaves his name with the Captain, and where he might be found, but was never called for to Justifie the words spoken by her.

A Woman standing in *White-Chappel* with a Company about her, was askt what the matter was? She said, that she met two young men in that place, and asked them how it was with the Fire: They answered, *Its now almost out, if it can be kept so, but the Rogues renew it with their Fireballs.* Ay saith another Woman, Young men, if you have a heart to it, you may be hyred to throw *Fire-balls* too; For I know where twenty were hired yesterday to throw them. It was askt her, what was become of the Woman that spake thus? She answered, That she had apprehended her and delivered her to the under-Beadle of *White-Chappel-Parish*. The Woman falling under the accusation (not being able to deny it) there being many Witnesses at that time that heard it: She was delivered to Sir *John Robinson*, but heard of no more.

One from *France* writes to his Correspondent in *London*, to know the truth of what was muttered in *Paris*, VWhether *London* were laid in Ashes or no. The Letter being dated a week before the Fire began.

From *Surrey* in or near *Darkin*, a Person in ordinary habit (who was yet observed to take place of all the Nobility and Gentry among the Papists, seeing the People of *Darkin* mourn for the Burning of the City, he spake slightly of it, telling them, They should have something else to trouble themselves for, and that shortly *Darkin* should be laid as low as *London*. VWhereupon the People made at him, and one Mr. *Howard* a great Papist rescues him, and sends him away in his Coach to *London*. This was desposed before Sir *Adam Brown*, a Justice of Peace and a Member of Parliament.

These following Relations (for substance) were delivered to Sir Robert Brooks, Chairman of the Committee, a little before the Prorogation of the Parliament.

A True Relation made by one of the Grand Jury, at Hicks Hall, at a general Quarter-Sessions, presently after the Fire in London, who was upon Tryal of some of those that fired the City.

That near *West-Smithfield* in *Check-Lane*, there was a man taken in the very Act of firing a House, by the Inhabitants and Neighbours; and carrying him away through *Smithfield*, to have him before a Justice for the fact committed, The Kings Life-Guard perceiving it, made up unto them, and demanded their Prisoner from them; but they refused to let him go. The Life-Guard men told them, That he was one of the Kings Servants, and said, *We will have him*; and thereupon they drew out their Swords and Pistols, and rescued him out of the peoples hands by force of Arms.

A Bill of Indictment was brought against him, and two or three Witnesses did swear unto it, and the Bill was found by the Grand-Jury, who did carry it to the *Old Bailey*, and presented it to the Lord Chief Justice; but it came to no further Tryal, nor was ever seen after at the *Old Bailey*, so far as this person upon his best enquiry could ever hear or learn.

Concerning a House-keeper at So-ho, who fired his own Dwelling-House.

First he secured all his Goods in his Garden, and then went in and fired his House; which when he had done, he endeavoured to get away out at his Fore-Door. A Neighbour demanded of him who had fired his House? He answered, *The Devil*. Upon that, his Neighbour bid him stand, or he would run his Halbert into his guts. His answer was, *If you do, there are enough left behind me to do the Work*. Whereupon he was secured, and a Bill of Indictment brought against him, and about three Witnesses did swear to it, and his Son came in as a Witness against him, who was demanded by the Foreman, What he could say as to the firing of his Fathers House? He said, that *his Father did fire it with a Fire-ball*. It was demanded of

of him, Whether he did fire it above stairs, or below? He answered, *Above stairs.* The Bill was likewise found; but the Petty-Jury being too much influenced and over-awed by the L. C. J. K. did not find him guilty.

A Maid was taken in the Street with two Fire-Balls in her lap; Some did demand of her, Where she had them? She said, One of the Kings Life-Guard threw them into her Lap: She was asked why she had not caused him to be apprehended? She said, That she knew not what they were. She was indicted for this, and the Bill found against her, and turned over to the *Old-Bayly*, but no prosecution upon it.

In the time of the Fire, a Constable took a Frenchman firing a House, seized on him, and going to a Magistrate with him, met His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who asked the reason of the tumult: One told him that a Frenchman was taken firing a House; his Highness called for the man, who speak to him in *French*. The Duke asked, Who would attest it? The Constable said, *I took him in the Act, and I will attest it.* The Duke took him into his custody, and said, *I will secure him.* But he was heard of no more.

On Munday the third of September, there was a Frenchman taken firing a House; and upon searching of him, Fire-Balls were found about him. At which time four of the Life-Guard rescued the Frenchman, and took him away from the People, after their usual manner in the whole time of the Fire.

One Mr. Belland a Frenchman, living at *Maribone*, who bought great store of Pastboard for a considerable time before the fire in the City of London, to the quantity of twenty gross in one Shop, and much more elsewhere, was asked by a Citizen, What he did with all that Pastboard? He answered, that he made *Fire-Works* for the Kings pleasure. The Citizen asked him, What doth the King give you? He replied, *Nothing, only I have Respects at Court:* The Citizen said, *Take heed, Mr. Belland, you do not expend your estate, and then lose your Respects at Court, for you are at a great charge.* Belland answered, Sir, do you think this a great matter? I use all this myself; But if you did see all the great quantities I have made elsewhere, in three several places, three, four, and five miles off, you would say something. Another time, the Stationer with whom he dealt for the Pastboard,

being at his House in *Maribone*, and wondring at the many thousands of Fire-Works that lay piled up of several sorts, he said, *Sir, do you wonder at this? if you should see the quantity that I have made elsewhere by other men, you would WONDER INDEED.*

The Sunday before the Fire began, this *Belland* came to the Shop where he was wont to buy his Pastboard, but the Stationer being not there, he desired a Citizen (the Stationers Neighbour) to speak to him, and to let him know that he had much wronged him in disappointing him of the four gross of Pastbord which he should have had of him, and said that he should not do his work by the time; and that if he had it not by *Tuesday* night, it would come too late, he should have no occasion for it after that (which was the *Tuesday* night before the Fire) Mr. *Belland* (said the Citizen) what is the reason of your haste? Have you any Shew suddenly before the King? At which he blusht, and would give no answer. Says the Citizen, *What kind of Fireworks do you make, only such as will crack and run?* *Belland* answered, *I make of all sorts; some that will burn and make no crack at all, but will fly up in a pure Body of flame, higher then the top of Pauls, and Waver in the Ayre.* Says the Citizen, Mr. *Belland*, when you make your Shew, shall I see it? Yes, said *Belland*, I promise you, and gave him his hand upon it. Which Citizen in the time of the Fire, being upon the *Thames* in a Boat, saw, to his great amazement, sundry bodies of Fire, burning above the Fire of the Houses *as high again as Pauls, Wavering in the Ayre*, directly according to *Bellands* description.

And after the Burning of the City, the Stationer and the other Citizen agreed to go to *Maribone*, to speak with this *Belland*; and by the way met with his two Maids, and his Boy: And having some knowledge of them, asked for young Mr. *Belland*, who told them, he was not at home, neither knew they where he was. But the Citizens observing that they carryed with them Rabbits and Capons ready drest, concluded, they were going to him, and told them so. Whereat, they were surly and bad them go look him, for they would not tell them where he was. Upon that, the Citizens resolved to follow them, and did, till they came to *Whitehall*. The Servants went up stairs and down stairs, on purpose to have lost them, but could not, for they kept close to them. And at last, one of the Maids went to a door and knock'd, Crying out, *They were dogg'd by two men, that they could not be rid of:* With that young Mr. *Belland* opened the door saying to one of the Citizens, *Sir your Servant, how do you do?*

One.

One of them answered, *Both I and many Thousand Families more are the worse for you; for you under pretence of making Fire-works for the King, have Destroyed a Famous City, and Ruined a Noble People.* To which Belland replies, *I make nothing but Innocent Things, that will do no harm; for which I have a Patent from the King.* But the Citizen answered, *If the King gave you a Patent, it was but for your self:* Who answered, *No.* Said the Citizen, *What made you then to imploy so many men, in so many places?* No, said Belland, *I set no man to work, neither know I any Man that makes of them, but my self; though he had often before said otherwise.* While they were thus discouraging, Old Belland looks from under the Hanging, Sir, said he, *I hear you charge my Son with Suspicion of Burning the City, I pray you speak lower* (casting his Eyes about, fearing the Ladies passing by might hear) and said, *My Son doth nothing but what he hath a Patent from the King for, and shall have an Order to Sue any man, that shall accense him.* And he said, *My Son is no Prisoner, but Lodged here to prevent him from the Rage of the Common People.* Well, said the Citizens, *You must give an Account for what you have done.* And so they shut the Door upon them. The Citizens went and enquired whose Lodgings they were, and were told, they belonged to the Lady Killegrew.

The Information of Thomas Middleton Chyrurgeon, late Inhabitant of St. Brides, London.

IThe said *Thomas Middleton* do hereby certifie, that upon the Sunday in the afternoon (the day wherein the dreadful fire brake out in *Padding-Lane* which consumed the City) hearing the general outcry, that the City was fired by *Papists* and *French*, I repaired to the top of a Church Steeple near the *Three Cranes* in the *Vintry*; where my self and several others observed the motion of the Fire for two or three hours together, and we all took notice, that the Fire did break forth out of several houses, when the houses which were then burning were at a good distance from them every way, and more particularly, I saw the fire break out from the inside of *Lawrence-Pountney Steeple*, when there was no fire near it. These and such like Observations begat in me a Perswasion, that the Fire was maintained by design. Upon Monday I repaired again into the City, and found as the day before, that the Fire did break forth in fresh houses at a great distance one from another. And as I was returning

ing home, passing through *Watling-Street* by a Tobacco Merchants house, I saw the Master of the house come down staires, driving a young fellow before him, saying to him, *You Rogue, do you come to Rob me? what did you do in my Garret?* or words to that purpose, and pushed him out of doors: All which I observed, and he seemed to be a Frenchman: He was a short black fellow of about 22 years of Age: and as soon as he was out of the house, he having a loose coat on, in a way of Privacy, Shuffles something under his Coat, whereupon I laid hold of him, and said, *Sirrah, what have you there?* The fellow replied, *What is that to you, the Master of the House knows me:* Upon that I asked the Mr. of the House whether he knew the fellow, he answered, *he knew him not.* Whereupon I searched the fellow, and found a horn of powder about him, and as soon as the powder was discovered, he fell a rubbing his hands, they being all black with powder: He had also about him, a Book intituled, *The Jewish Government.* I charged him that he was a Frenchman, because he spake broken English; but he denied it, and did much Vaunt himself. There coming a Constable by with his Staffe, I Required him to carry him to Prison, and I would assist him; So we conveyed him to *Old Bridewel*, and by the way, the People were ready to kill him, calling him *French-Rascal.* I prayed them to forbear, for Justice would give him his Reward. I told the fellow he would be hanged; he made slight of it, saying, *If I dye my Soul shall be Saved, but yours shall be Damned.* And when he was put into *Bridewel*, I desired that he might be secured and none suffered to speak with him, till he were Examined before a Magistrate, because the Tobacco-Merchants House was presently Burned upon it. But so it happned on the next day that the fire came on, and consumed my House and Goods; so that I was forced with my Family to fly into the Country, and what became of the Fellow I know not, *Old Bridewel* being burnt also. And understanding that the Parliament hath appointed a Committee to enquire after the Actors in, and Fomenters of that Terrible Fire, I thought good to inform the Honourable Committee thereof, that they may send for the Keeper of the said *Bridewel*, to know what became of the Fellow, that he might receive Justice according to his demerit. Thus much I thought my self obliged to do, as in Duty bound to God and my Country. All which I am ready to affirm upon Oath, when I shall be thereunto called.

IN the time of the Fire, near *Bridewell*, there was a man sadly be-
 moaning the great Loss he was like to sustain (the Fire then be-
 ing within five or six houses of him) did beseech the people for Gods
 sake, they having no Goods of their own in danger, to come in and
 help him to throw out Trunks, Chests, Beds, &c. out at a window,
 having procured two *Carts* or *Waggons* to carry them away. Where-
 upon I ran into his House with several others, broke down his
 Windows, threw out his Goods, and loaded the Carts ; and there
 being some interval of time before the return of the Carts, and see-
 ing a Room wherein were many Books and loose Papers (which
 seemed to be a Library) I went in and took down a Book, which
 proved to be *Ovids Metamorphosis*, and while I was looking upon it,
 there came into the same Room an Old Man of low stature, with a
 white Frock, who looked also on the Book as it was in my hand ; I
 took him in my mind to be some Groom come out of a Stable, and
 thought him to be presumptuously foolish, supposing such a mean-
 like old man ignorant of that language in which the Book was writ-
 ten, it being Latine, but I spoke not to him : In the mean time,
 there brake forth a Fire amongst the Papers which were behind us,
 there being none in the Room but he and I. Whereupon the rest of
 the people coming in, cryed out, we had set the Room on fire,
 and rushing in upon us, put out the fire with their feet : where-
 upon I took hold of the Old Man by the buttons under the throat,
 and said, *How now Father, it must either be you or I must fire these*
Papers. There was a small thing of a Black matter, which looked
 like a piece of a Link, burning, which questionless set fire on
 the Papers, but it was immediately trod out. A multitude of people
 thronged in ; and when I said, *How now Father,* &c. took hold of him,
 he said, *Parce mihi Domine :* The people which did not understand
 it, cryed out, *He is a Frenchman, kill him,* and with pulling of him,
 his Perriwig fell off ; then appeared a bald Skull, and under his
 Frock he had black Clothes, I think of Bishops Sattin, whereupon
 he seemed to be a grave Ecclesiastick Person. I had much ado to
 save him from the people, but at last brought him before the Duke
 of York : we found in his pocket a bundle of Papers closed up with
 Wax like a Packet, which was delivered to the Duke of York. I
 know not what was written in them, neither do I know what Coun-
 try-man he was ; but methoughts he looked something Jesuitical-
 like.

like. This I am certain of, that when I went into the Room there was no fire in it, and it was fired when there was none but he and I in it, yet I cannot say I saw him do it, though I cannot but suspect he did it, and the rather, because there were several houses untouched betwixt this house, and where the fire was coming on, when the Papers in the Library were thus on fire as I have related. What became of this fellow after we had delivered him to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, I have not heard.

John Stewartt.

Thus far concerning the Report and Informations about the Fire: Now follows a true account of what was represented to another Committee of Parliament, touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery, &c.

At the Committee appointed to certifie Informations touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the Increase of Popery.

Ordered, That these several Informations proceeded on, in pursuance of the said Power of the Committee, be Reported to the House, in reference to the Insolency of the Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery.

As to the Increase of Popery, Mr. *Hancock* Minister of *Chil-moth* in *Wilt*, Informes, That meeting with one Mr. *Thompson*, about a month since, coming from *Mas* out of *Somerset-House* Chappel, and discoursing to him about his Religion, asked him if there were many lately turned to it? *Thompson* answered, *Thousands*. And being demanded what encouragement there was to it? Replied, There would be a *Change suddenly*.

Report his Carriage at the Committee.

Mr. *Thompson* being summoned before the Committee, did behave himself very insolently: They have commanded me to report it. Being asked, Whether he had not a Shop in *Somerset-House*, where *Popish Books* and *Popish Knacks* were sold? He said, He had; and that his Man sold such Books and *Beads*, and other things.

And

And said, there was one Crucifix, no Reliques, but wished he had some good ones. He said that he was a *Roman Catholique*, and thanks God for it. He said he was no Priest, but wished he were in a capacity to be one. He said he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, nor would do it. He said he would take any Oath that any Christian Prince should require, but not the Oath of Allegiance, intimating some mixture in it. He said he had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Spain*, and was a Subject to the King of *Spain*.

One *Mr. Ash* a Minister, late of *Capel* in *Surrey*, Informed, That being at *Causfield* in *Lancashire* this last Summer, he saw great resort on *Sundays* to *Causfield* House, the house of a Papist; and asking some that were going thither, what the occasion was of their resort thither, they told him they were going to Mass, and that one *Mr. Robinson* a Priest did say Mass.

Mr. Ash did likewise Inform, That he thought the number of those that went to Mass to that House on *Sundays*, was as great as the Protestants that went to the Parish Church.

One *Mr. Welden* Deputy Ordinary for *Middlesex*, did Inform, That in his accustomed attendance on the Prisoners at *Newgate*, about the times of Execution, *Romish Priests*, and particularly one *Mr. Harvy* a Jesuite, hath constantly used to resort to the Prison at those times; and doth perswade the Prisoners to become Papists; and that divers have been altered in their Religion by them, and turned to Popery.

Mr. Wootton Informeth, That on the 16th of *October*, he went to *Newgate*, and meeting with one *Howard* an Under-Keeper at the door, desired to speak with *Mr. Hubert* the Frenchman, who was then condemned. *Howard* told him that he could not speak with him yet, for *Mr. Harvy* the Queen-Mothers Confessor was in private with him, and said this *Harvy* used frequently to come to the Prison after Condemnation; and that where one Prisoner dyed a Protestant, many died Papists. *Mr. Wootton* said, that after some stay he saw *Mr. Harvy* come out from *Mr. Hubert*, and then he was admitted to have speech with him.

Mr. Cawdry, Keeper of *Newgate*, did Inform, That *Mr. Harvy* the Jesuite did frequent the Prison at *Newgate* about the times of Execution, upon the pretence of the Queens Charity, and did spend much time with the Prisoners in private, and particularly, did so before the last Execution, night after night. *Mr. Cawdry*

said likewise of the nine that suffered, eight died Papists, whereof some he knew were Protestants when they came into the Prison.

It appeared upon several Informations, that Mr. *Harvey* and other Priests, did not only resort to *Newgate* at times of Execution, but likewise to the *White-Lyon* in *Southwark*, and other Places in the Country, and used their endeavours to pervert Dying Prisoners.

Thomas Barnet, late a Papist, Informed, That when he was a Papist, and resorted to Gentlemens Houses in *Barkshire* that were Papists, there was almost in every Gentlemans house a Priest, and instanced in divers private Gentlemen in that County. Others did inform the like in *Surrey*.

Mr. *Cotman* did Inform, That one Mr. *Carpenter*, late a Preacher at *Colledge-Hill*, did in discourse tell *Cotman*, That the Judgements of God upon this Kingdom, by the Plague last year, and lately by the Fire in London, were come upon this Land and People for their forsaking the true Roman Catholique Religion, and casting off obedience to the Pope. And that if they would return to the Church of Rome, the Pope would re-build this City at his own charge. *Carpenter* said likewise to the said *Cotman*, That if he would come and hear him preach the next Sunday at his house in *Queen-street*, he would give twenty Reasons to prove, that the Roman Catholique was the true Religion, and his false; and that our Bible had a thousand falsities in it, And that there was no true Scripture but at Rome and their Church.

Carpenter at the Committee confessed, That he had formerly taken Orders from the Church of Rome, to be a Priest, but said he had Renounced that Church and taken Orders in England.

The next thing is the Information of their Insolency, and I shall begin with their Scorning and Despising the Bible.

One *Thomas Williams* an Officer in Sir *William Bowyers* Regiment Informed, That one *Ashley* a Papist, seeing a Woman reading in a Bible, asked her why she read in that Damnable Presbyterian Bible, and said, a Play Book was as good.

Thomas Barnet of *Bynfield* in *Barkshire* Informed, That being at one Mr. *Yonges* house in *Bynfield* at *Batholomew-tide* last, Mr. *Young* said to the Brother of this *Thomas*, in his hearing, That within two years there should not be a Protestant in England. *Thomas Barnet* informed further, That being at Mr. *Doncasters* house in *Bynfield*, One Mr. *Thural*, Son-in-law to Mr. *Doncaster* (and both

both Papists) said to this Informer (who was then likewise a Papist) “ The People take me for a poor fellow, But I shall find a
 “ thousand or two thousand pounds, to raise a party of Horse to
 “ make Mr. *Hathorns* and Mr. *Bulcocks* fat Guts lye on the Ground.
 “ For it is no more to kill an Heretique, than to kill a Grasshopper:
 “ And that it was happy for him, that he was a Catholique, for by
 “ that means, he shall be one that shall be mounted.

Mr. *Linwood* a Scrivener in *White-Chappel* Informed, That about the 20th of *October* last, meeting with one Mr. *Binks* a Papist, and discoursing with him, *Binks* told him, That there was amongst the Papists as great a designe as ever was in *England*; and he thought it would be executed speedily. Being asked how many Papists there might be about *London*, he answered, about seven thousand; and in *England*, a hundred thousand were Armed.

Mr. *Oakes* a Phytician, dwelling in *Shadwel*, Informed, That a little after the Burning of *London*, one Mr. *Carpenter* a Minister, came to his house on *Tower-Wharf*, and spake to him to this purpose: “ I will not say that I am a Papist; but this I will say, that
 “ I had rather dye the death of a Papist, and that my Soul should
 “ be raised with their Resurrection, Than either to be Presbyteri-
 “ an, Independent or Anabaptist. And I tell you, the Papists have
 “ hitherto been his Majesties best Fortification. For when Presby-
 “ terian, Independent, and Anabaptists opposed him, then they
 “ stood by him and helped him. And he is now resolved to com-
 “ mit himself into their hands. And take it upon my word, in a
 “ short time, the Papists will lay you as low as that house; pointing
 “ to a house that was demolish’d; For they are able to raise Forty
 “ thousand men. And I believe the next work will be cutting of
 “ Throats. This was sworn by Mr. *Oaks* before Sir *John Frederick*, a Member of the House.

Mirian Pilkington being present when the words were spoken doth affirme them all, save only those, That the King is resolved to commit himself into the Papists hands. Those she doth not remember.

Henry Young a Distiller of hot-waters, Informed, That about *April*, 1661. being in the Jesuites Colledge in *Anwerp*, one *Powel*, an English Jesuite, perswaded him to turn *Roman Catholique*; and said, If he intended to save his Life and Estate he had best to turn so, for within seven years he should see all *England* of that Religion. *Young* replied, That the City of *London* would never endure it.

Powel answered, *That within five or six years they would break the power and strength of London in pieces; and that they had been contriving it these twenty years; and that if Young did live, he should see it done.* The said Young did likewise Inform, That shortly after his coming into England, one Thompson and Copervel, both Papists, did several times say to him, *That within five or six years, at the furthest, The Roman Catholick Religion should be all over this Kingdom.*

Jasper Goodwin of Darkin in the County of Surry, Informed, That about a month since, One Edward Complyn, a Papist, said to him, *You must all be Papists shortly; and that now he was not ashamed to own himself a Roman Catholique, and to own his Priests; naming two that lived in Darkin, in the Houses of two Papists.* And likewise said, *That in twenty four hours Warning, the Roman Catholiques could raise Thirty Thousand Men, as well armed as any Men in Christendom.*

Williams Warner of Darkin, Informed, That the said Edward Complyn did tell him, That the Romane Catholiques in England could in twenty four houres raise Thirty thousand Horse and Arms: And upon saying so, pull'd out his Crucifix and Beads; and said, *He was not ashamed of his Religion.*

John Granger of Darkin, Informed, That about a year since, being in his House reading the Bible, one Thomas Collins, a Papist, said to him, *Are you still a Church-goer? Had you not better turn Roman Catholique? If you stay till you are forced, none will abide you.* He said further, That there was a Man beyond-Sea had prophesied, *That in Sixty Six, if the King did not settle the Romish Religion in England, he would be banished out of the Kingdom, and all his Posterity.* And Collins further said, *That he being lately turned a Roman Catholique, would not be a Protestant again for all the World.* He wished Granger again, in the hearing of his Wife (which she affirmed to the Committee) *To turn to his Religion; for all the said Prophecie would come to pass in Sixty Six.*

Robert Holloway of Darkin aforesaid, Informed, That one Stephen Griffen a Papist said to him, *That all the Blood that had been shed in the late Civil Wars, was nothing to that which would be shed this year in England.* Holloway demanding a Reason for these words (in regard the Kingdom was in Peace and no likelihood of Trouble) and said, *Do you Papists mean to Rise and Cut our Throats when we are asleep?* Griffen answered, *That's no matter, If you live, you shall see it.*

Ferdinand de Massido, a Portugal, and some few years since a Romish Priest, but turning Protestant, Informed, That one Father Tasse a Jesuite, did the last year tell him at Paris, That if all England did not return to the Church of Rome, they should all be destroyed the next year.

Mr. Samuel Cosman of the Middle-Temple, Barrister, informed, That about two years since, one Mr. Jevison a Popish Priest, and called by the name of *Father Garret*, did persuade him to turn *Papist*, and he should want neither profit nor preferment. Mr. Cosman objected, That he intended to practise the Law, which he could not do, if he turned *Papist*, because he must take the *Oath of Supremacy* at his being called to the Bar: and if he were a *Papist*, he must not take it. Mr. Jevison replied, *Why not take the Oath? It is an unlawful Oath, and void ipso facto*; and after some pause, said further, *First take the Oath, and then I will Convert you.* He said further, *The King will not own himself to be Head of the Church.* And said further, *You of England that set up the Dutch to destroy our Religion, shall find that they shall be made use of to pull down Yours, and consequently their Own at last.*

*Man Stanley, an Officer to the Duke of Ormond in Ireland, informed, That coming out of Ireland with one Oriell (who owned himself of the Order of the Jesuites, and Commissioned from the Pope to be Lord Primate of Ireland and Arch-Bishop of Armaugh) and falling into some discourse with him, he told him that there had been a difference betwixt him and some other of the Jesuits in Ireland, and that part of the occasion was, That one *Father Welch* and some other of the Jesuites there, did dispencc with the Papists in Ireland to take the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, by virtue of a *Standing Commission* from the Pope which he had to do it. During this Kings Life, and Oriell thought they ought not to do it by virtue of the *Standing Commission*, but should take a *New Commission* from the Pope every Year to do it. And likewise that he brought eight Boyes out of Ireland, whom he intended to carry for Flanders, to breed up in some of the Colledges there. And at his taking Shipping to go for Flanders, He shook his Foot towards England, terming it *Agypt*, and said, *He would not return to England, till he came with Fifty Thousand Men at his heels.**

A French Merchant, being a Papist, living in *St. Michaels-Lane London*, writes in a Letter to his Friend, That a great Number of Men and Arms were ready here, if those he wrote to were ready there. He being, upon the intercepting of this Letter, searched, Fourty Firelocks were found in his House, ready loaden; which were carried to *Fishmongers-Hall*, a month or more before the Fire, and he committed to Prison, but since Released.

A poor Woman retaining to one *Belfons* house, a Papist, about *Darkin* in *Surry*, was solicited, that she and her Husband would turn *Roman Catholicks*; which if they did voluntarily Now, they would be accepted of; but if they staid a little longer, they would be forced whether they would or no; and then they would not be esteemed. This was deposed before *Sir Adam Brown*, a Member of Parliament.

A Complaint being made against a Sugar-baker at *Fox-Hall*; his House was searched by *Lieut. Col. Luntly*, who found there several Guns, with such Locks, as no Englishman (who was at the taking of them) could discharge; together with Brass-Blunderbusses and Fire-works, of a very furious and burning nature. Tryal being made of a small part of them, the materials were discerned to be Sulphur, Aquavita and Gunpowder, whatever else.

In a Letter to *Sir John Frederick* and *Mr. Nathaniel Heron*, from *Horsham* in *Suffex*, the 8th of September 1666. Subscribed *Henry Chowne*. Wherein is mentioned, that the said *Henry Chowne* had thoughts to come to *London* that week, but that they were in Distraction there concerning the Papists, fearing they would shew themselves all that day: And that he had been to search a Papists House within six miles of that place. He with another Justice of Peace met the Gentlemans Brother (who is a Priest) going to *London*, whom they searched; and found a Letter about him which he had received that morning from his Sister twenty miles off from him, Wherein is expressed, That a great Business is in hand, not to be committed to Paper, as the Times be.

Your Committee have thought fit to give no Opinion upon these Informations; but leave the matter of Fact to your Judgments.

I am commanded to tell you, That your Committee have several other things of this nature under their Inquiry.

As

AS a further Instance of the Audacious and Insolent behaviour of these *Papish Recusants*, take the following Copy of Verses, made, and then scattered abroad by some of their Party, in *Westminster-Hall*, and several other places about the City, and elsewhere in the Kingdom.

Over la feu, ye *Hagonots*,
That have so branded us with Plots,
And henceforth no more Bonfires make,
Till ye arrive the Stygian Lake.
For down ye must ye Hereticks,
For all your hopes in Sixty Six.
The hand against you is so steady,
Your Bsbylon is faln already.
And if you will avoid that happy,
Return into your Mothers lap;
The Devil a Mercy is for those,
That Holy Mother Church oppose.
Let not your Clergy you betray;
Great eyes are ope, and see the way.
Return in time, if you will save
Your Souls, your Lives, or ought you have.
And if you live till Sixty Seven,
Confess you had fair Warning given.
Then see in time, or ay be blind,
Short time will shew you what's behind.

I E

7 5

Dated the 5th day of November, in the year 1666. and the first year of the Restoration of the Church of Rome in England.

Not long after the Burning of London, Mr. Brook Bridges, a young Gentleman of the Temple, as he was going to attend Divine Service in the Temple-Church, in a Pew there found this following Paper, which immediately, either by himself or a Relation of his, was delivered to Sir William Morrice, one of his Majesties principal Secretaries of State; the Contents of the Paper are as follows.

A

A Warning to Protestants.

I, who have been a *Papist* from my infancy, till of late; and in Zeal for their horrid Principles, had too great a share in the Flying of the City; And did intend to do further mischief to the *Protestants* (of which I am now, and ever shall be a Member) do upon abhorrence of that Villany, and Religion that hath moved me to it, declare to all *Protestants* the Approach of their Sudden Ruine, that it may be prevented, if it be not too late.

When I, together with other *Papists*, both *French*, *Irish* and *English*, fired the City; others were employed to massacre the *Protestants*; we thinking thereby to destroy the Heads of your Religion; but the Massacre was disappointed by the Fear of him who was the chief Agent in this Villany. And the *Fire* not having done all its Work, they have often endeavoured to fire the remaining part. They intend likewise to land the *French* upon you: To whose Assistance they all intend to come, and for that purpose are stored with Arms: And have so far deceived the King, that they have the Command of most part of the Army and the Sea-Ports. The *French* intend to land at *Dover*, that Garrison being most *Papists*: And the *Papists* in *England* have express Command from *Rome*, to hasten their business before the next Parliament, and to dispatch. Therefore as you love your Lives and Fortunes, prevent your Ruine, by removing all the *Papists* in *England*, especially Colonel *Legg* from the *Tower*, and the Lord *Douglasse*, and all his Adherents and Soldiers, from *Dover*, and by Disarming all *Papists*. I have such an abhorrency, that I would willingly undergo any Punishment for it, and declare my self openly, were I not assured that I could do you more good in concealing my Name for the present. Delay not from following these Directions as you love your Lives; And be not deceived by any Pretences whatsoever.

